



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Grace Chattin.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2013-0097 Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Flax.

2013-0105 Proclamation Recognizing Earth Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Streeter.

2013-0127 Proclamation Celebrating Opening Day of Baseball Season

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

2013-0129 Proclamation Celebrating Comcast Cares Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Morton.

2013-0130 Proclamation Recognizing the Mystic GeoHistorian Project

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.

First Annual Awards Luncheon of the Connecticut Black Pilots of America

Councilor Morton attended an awards luncheon of the Connecticut Black Pilots of America on May 4, 2013, at which the Town was presented a plaque for its contributions to the Groton/New London Airport.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**a. Approval of Minutes****2013-0133 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of April 16, 2013 and April 23, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2013-0123 Special Trust Fund Contributions****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Anonymous - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
The Sunup Foundation - \$10,000 - Library Miscellaneous
Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$27.21 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Frank and Margaret Adams - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anonymous - \$1.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Joseph and Arlene Atwood - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Angelo and Jeannette Baruffa - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Audrey Burgess - \$3.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Kay Chester - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
David and Veronica Cousens - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Richard Davies - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Joan Feeney - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara Gay - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ines Granville - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
David Heid - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Hickey Family - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Kay Janney - \$35.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Jean Kennedy - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Bruce and Nancy Labelle - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anna Marie Landry - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Clifton Martelle - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Helen Moore - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara and Linwood Navarro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Donald O'Neil - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Patricia Pearce - \$60.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Thomas Powden - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anne Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
James and Ann Sailors - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Bruce Shipman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Nidia and Bernard Somers - \$2.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2012-0146 Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting Districts**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0220 Review of Ordinance No. 135 - Consumption of Alcohol at Town Sponsored Events

- 2013-0093 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
FYE 2014 Proposed Budget Deliberations
- 2013-0098 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Recreation Trails Grant - Tri-Town Trail
- 2013-0103 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Lighting at Calvin Burrows Field
- 2013-0113 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Naming of Town-Owned Land Tract Thomas Road
- 2013-0120 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut Grant
- 2013-0124 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Historic Documents Preservation Grant (2014)
- 2013-0131 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Public Hearing on Proposed Lease for Cell Tower on Gary Court
- 2013-0132 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Referral of Lease of Town-Owned Property on Gary Court to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24
- 2013-0132 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Watson, and Mayor Somers attended the Arbor Day celebration at Cutler Middle School.

Councilor Johnson received a request from the Civil Air Patrol to use Fitch Middle School.

Councilor Watson, Councilor Streeter, and Mayor Somers attended the installation of officers for the Groton Elks Club.

Councilor Flax received an inquiry regarding softball fields.

Councilor Antipas attended a Boating Advisory Board meeting. He noted that a Small Boat Day is scheduled for June 16, 2013, and the next Boating Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 23, 2013.

Councilor Watson met with Bob Peruzzotti and Bill Robarge regarding school security. He also pitched the first ball for Little League Opening Day.

Councilor Streeter received emails regarding Noank School. He participated in the community clean-up of Eastern Point Beach, and attended a Bill Memorial Library presentation "By Land and By Sea."

Mayor Somers had meetings with local principals, a business owner on Godfrey Street, and downtown Mystic merchants. The Mayor attended all functions where proclamations were

presented. She attended celebrations for both the Submarine Veterans' 40th Anniversary and the Noank Nursery School's 50th Anniversary. Mayor Somers announced that Councilors and Board of Education members will participate in the Mystic Schooners kickoff game on June 17, 2013.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM is continuing to meet for its annual budget sessions, with the next session being May 8, 2013. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on June 12, 2013.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk attended a Rotary Club meeting.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager thanked the Sunup Foundation for its generous donation of \$10,000 to the library. Mr. Oefinger noted that the Council needs to discuss potential bond referendum items to determine if one or all of the projects should move forward. The Town Manager stated that pistol permit fingerprints will be done four days per month; Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) will be sponsoring a guided tour of the newly acquired Thomas Road property on June 1, 2013; a public workshop for Groton's Plan of Conservation and Development will be held May 15, 2013; the School Facilities Initiative Task Force will meet May 9, 2013; a Flag Day celebration at the Mystic flag pole will be held June 14, 2013; and the change of command at the SubBase will be held May 31, 2013.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In answer to Councilor Flax, the Town Manager stated that the primary focus for the police station is the cell area. The sally port and pistol range could be done separately. The Flanders Road and Judson Avenue projects could be implemented in stages as well. Mr. Oefinger noted

that if these projects are implemented in stages, costs will increase.

Since the bonding referendum for road paving passed, Councilor Morton would like a comparison of what it will cost the Town to pave roads versus out-sourcing paving projects. She noted that man hours for the Public Works Department should be factored into the comparison.

The Town Manager stated that paving has already begun in Tanglewood. He will have the Director of Public Works discuss the paving projects and associated costs and comparisons with the Council.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2013-0098 Recreation Trails Grant - Tri-Town Trail

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A RECREATION TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE TRI-TOWN TRAIL (BLUFF POINT TO PRESTON TRAIL)

WHEREAS, the Tri-Town Trail Committee was established in 2008 to plan a hiking and biking trail between Bluff Point in Groton and the Town of Preston, and

WHEREAS, grants are available through the Recreational Trails Program to support regional trail development, and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Town Trail Committee has requested that the Town of Groton apply for a grant in an amount up to \$200,000 to establish a section of trail from Bluff Point to the I-95 Underpass on Route 117, and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Town Trail Committee has indicated that it will be responsible for obtaining the 20% match required by the grant (up to \$40,000), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit a grant application to the State of Connecticut under the Recreational Trails Program in an amount up to \$200,000 for a section of the Bluff Point to Preston Trail.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0103 Lighting at Calvin Burrows Field

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INSTALLING LIGHTS AT CALVIN BURROWS FIELD AND PAYING OPERATIONAL COSTS

WHEREAS, Groton Little League is proposing to install lighting at the Calvin Burrows Field on South Road, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has been asked to fund the cost of electricity to operate the lights which has been estimated at \$1,000 per year, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council expresses its support for the lighting project with operation costs paid by the Town.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0113 Naming of Town-Owned Land Tract Thomas Road

RESOLUTION NAMING THE TOWN-OWNED TRACT OF LAND ON THOMAS ROAD

WHEREAS, the Town recently acquired three parcels of land along Thomas Road from the Spicer family, and

WHEREAS, the property contains a number of unique conservation and ecological features including a tidal estuary, woodlands that provide good habitat and cover for wildlife, a five acre fresh water pond, and a vernal pool, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission Procedures and Guidelines approved by the Town Council authorize the Commission "to review, approve and recommend for Town Council action naming and renaming of Town parks and recreation facilities," now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council names the Town-owned tract of land on Thomas Road the Sparkle Lake Conservation Area.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

After communicating with members of the Spicer family, it was decided not to name the property William C. Spicer, Jr. Conservation Area.

MOTION TO AMEND the name of the property to read Sparkle Lake Conservation Area and to remove the fourth WHEREAS paragraph was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Schmidt.

VOTE on Motion to Amend carried unanimously.

Discussion took place about the possibility of a sign being erected in the future which would outline the history of the property and William C. Spicer, Jr.'s contribution to it.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0120**Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut Grant**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut is accepting applications for a one-time grant in the amount of \$7,000 to support local public, education, and government capabilities within each town in the Comcast and Thames Valley cable franchise services areas, and

WHEREAS, the grant would be used by the Library to purchase remote control cameras that would be installed in the Groton Senior Center's main activity room and used to record and televise Town meetings and events, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designated agent is authorized to submit a grant application in the amount of \$7,000 for the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0124**Historic Documents Preservation Grant (2014)**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A CONTRACT FOR A HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton will benefit by the continuance of the Historic Document Preservation Program which will be enabled and enhanced by grant funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, is empowered to

execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0131 Public Hearing on Proposed Lease for Cell Tower on Gary Court

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY ON GARY COURT TO SBA TOWERS III, LLC FOR A PROPOSED CELL TOWER

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing as per CGS Sec. 7-163e on a proposed lease of Town-owned property on Gary Court to SBA Towers III, LLC for a proposed cell tower on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0132 Referral of Lease of Town-Owned Property on Gary Court to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING THE PROPOSED LEASE OF PROPERTY ON GARY COURT FOR A CELL TOWER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposed lease between the Town of Groton and SBA Towers III, LLC for a portion of Town-owned land on Gary Court for a proposed cell tower, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the proposed lease of a portion of Town-owned land on Gary Court to the Groton Planning Commission pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

By consensus, the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for May 14, 2013, has been cancelled.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant